

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

DSU SS05-2021

RFx number: 3150003484

Delta State University (DSU) anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase as a sole source shall follow the procedures outlined below.

Commodity or commodities to be purchased (manufacturer, model, description):

We request to upgrade the current system for Wiley Planetarium from Digistar 6 to Digistar 7. This upgrade is facilitated through the company Evans & Sutherland. This upgrade includes the following:

Upgrade to Digistar 7 – install DisplayPort sync cards

- Qty (3) – Windows 10 SAC license
- Qty (3) – RTX 3080 Video card or equivalent
- Qty (6) - 2TB SSD – 2 for each computer
- Qty (2) - 16GB memory upgrade for each of the GP's
- Qty (2) - DisplayPort Sync cards (host doesn't need one)
- Qty (2) - DisplayPort to Dual Link DVI-D active adapter
- Qty (1) - DisplayPort to DVI adapter for console monitors
- Qty (2) - Power supply to extend DVI
- Digistar7 Software License
- On-site visit

The need to be fulfilled by this item(s) and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

An update to the Wiley Planetarium system from Digistar 6 to Digistar 7 is required in order to keep the planetarium current and to facilitate live streaming of content. The only way to upgrade the current system is to do so through Evans & Sutherland. No other company is able to do this, as Digistar is a proprietary product of Evans & Sutherland. The Digistar 7, supplied by Evans and Sutherland, is the only one that is compatible with our current equipment within the planetarium. Installing a planetarium system through a new company would require us to start over again from scratch. If we did this, all planetarium shows purchased through Evans & Sutherland as the distributor would also be lost, representing tens of thousands of dollars of purchased film licensing.

Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):

The Wiley Planetarium at Delta State University already has a Digistar 6 system, developed, manufactured, and installed by Evans & Sutherland. Digistar is proprietary to Evans & Sutherland, and they do not sell their systems through third parties. Therefore, an upgrade to a Digistar 7 system can only be carried out through Evans & Sutherland. It is the only one that is compatible with all of our current equipment, software, and shows. Switching to a new company, would create a hardship on the university and the instructors that use it for teaching purposes. A letter from Evans & Sutherland has been obtained which identifies Evans & Sutherland as the sole developer and distributor of Digistar 7.

Why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable:

Delta State University has invested heavily in the Wiley Planetarium, and we intend to maintain its presence as a cutting-edge STEM resource for the Mississippi Delta with this upgrade. This will benefit DSU students taking PHY 105 – Astronomy, as well as the public who attend shows. The upgrade will also help us facilitate live streaming of state-of-the-art planetarium content, which will help us reach an audience anywhere as long as they can access the internet. To upgrade the planetarium system from Digistar 6 to Digistar 7, new graphics cards, additional hardware, new software and licenses, and a site visit by an Evans & Sutherland technician are required. The quote provided by Evans & Sutherland includes all of these items at a fair price.

Efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:

The Wiley Planetarium director Dr. Maria Weber requested a quote from Evans & Sutherland. An Evans & Sutherland sales representative was assigned to the request. Although the quote is in line with the cost of the previous planetarium upgrade through Evans & Sutherland, Dr. Maria Weber asked the sales representative if their quote is their best and final offer. The company is familiar with the size, specifications, and needs of the Wiley Planetarium, as they installed the original system in Wiley Planetarium. Dr. Weber maintains close contact with Evans & Sutherland sales representatives and support technicians.

Submission Instructions and Format of Response from Objecting Parties:

Interested parties who have reason to believe that the item(s) above should not be certified as a sole source should provide information in the following format for DSU to use in determining whether or not to proceed with awarding the Sole Source purchase.

1.1 Interested Party Information

1.1.1 Contact Name, Phone Number, Address and email address

1.1.2 Company Website URL, if applicable

1.2 Objection to Sole Source Certification

1.2.1 Interested parties must present specific objections to the Sole Source certification using the criteria listed above.

1.2.2 A statement regarding the Interested Party's capabilities as related to this Sole Source Certification Request.

1.3 Comments will be accepted at any time prior to Friday, April 9, 2021 at 11:00 am (Central Time) to Crystal Beach at cbeach@deltastate.edu and bids@deltastate.edu at

**Delta State University
Office of Procurement Services
1417 Maple Street
Cleveland, MS 38733**

Responses may be delivered by hand, via regular mail, or overnight delivery.

The envelope or email should reference the sole source number.

DSU WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF RESPONSES. It is solely the responsibility of the Interested Parties that responses reach DSU on time. Interested Parties may contact Crystal Beach to verify the receipt of their Responses. Responses received after the deadline will be rejected.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, DSU determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then DSU will withdraw the sole source certification and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If DSU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then DSU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board for approval to purchase.